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Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting speech frames in a TDMA packet switched network in which ~~at least one time slot of the TDMA frame is allocated to at least two users~~, the method comprising:

providing speech user data from at least two users having the same data rate requirement;

encoding said speech user data from the at least two users into a single RLC/MAC block;

allocating at least one time slot of a TDMA frame to the RLC/MAC block;

and

transmitting at least a portion of the encoded RLC/MAC block in the allocated at least one time slot such that it carries speech data from each of the at least two users.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the transmitting step comprises transmitting the encoded RLC/MAC block in a plurality of time-slots, wherein the plurality includes the at least one time slot.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the transmitting step includes a step of interleaving the RLC/MAC block such that the at least one time-slot carries at least a part of the user data from each of the two users.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 in which the at least one time-slot carries at least a part of the user data from each of the two users.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein:
the network is an EDGE packet switched network;
the user data is speech; and
the transmitting step comprises transmitting the RLC/MAC block in four of the plurality of time-slots.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein each time slot carries a quarter of the encoded user data for each user.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein the transmitting step includes a step of interleaving the RLC/MAC block such that in each TDMA frame the at least one time slot carries at least a part of the user data from only one of the two users.

8. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein in each TDMA frame the at least one time-slot carries at least a part of the user data from one of the two users.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 7 wherein an encoded speech frame from each of the two users is carried over an alternate ones of a plurality of time slots, wherein the plurality of time slots include the at least one time slot.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 9 wherein
the network is an EDGE packet switched network;
the user data is speech; and
the transmitting step comprises transmitting the RLC/MAC block in four of
the plurality of time-slots.

11. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 10 wherein alternate time slots carry half of the encoded user data for each user.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein the user data comprises speech.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 3, wherein:
the network is a wireless network; and
the speech frames are transmitted on the down-link of the network.

14. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 7, wherein:
the network is a wireless network; and
user data is transmitted on the up-link of the network.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 in which the at least one time-slot simultaneously carries at least a part of the user data from each of the two users.